

SITUATION REPORT NO. 8
INCIDENT NO. 2002- 007

DATE: January 24, 2002

TIME: 5:00 p.m.

TO: Governor John Hoeven
State Capitol
Bismarck, N.D. 58505

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: Train Derailment – A large anhydrous ammonia plume enveloped significant portions of the Minot area when a 112-car train derailed on Friday, January 18.
2. DEATHS AND INJURIES: No change from previous reports.
3. DAMAGES: No change from previous reports.
4. RESOURCES:
LOCAL: No change from previous reports.
STATE: No change from previous reports.
FEDERAL: No change from previous reports.
5. VOLUNTEER ACTIONS: As of January 22, the Mid Dakota Chapter (Minot) of the American Red Cross opened and closed two shelters, opened one service center, provided 1,150 meals, completed four home/hospital visits, and reported 100 mental health contacts. A total of 13 volunteers and three staff members were involved in the response. More than \$20,000 was committed to this effort.
6. MAJOR ACTIONS: Due to odor detected at the Bel Air Elementary School in Minot, personnel from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the N.D. Department of Health (NDDoH) monitored inside and outside concentration levels of ammonia. A temperature inversion appeared to cause the ammonia vapor to remain in the area for fewer than 45 minutes. Based on scientific literature, NDDoH officials believed concentration levels did not pose an immediate health threat. Monitoring will continue on a daily basis.

A five-member National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) team concluded the on-scene portion of its investigation. A hazardous materials specialist will remain to inspect damaged cars and may take samples for metallurgic examination. Another member will inspect track conditions 100 miles in both directions from the derailment.

Based on consumer concerns, the North Dakota Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division and the Bureau of Criminal Investigation worked with Canadian Pacific Railway to develop proper legal language for reimbursement of residents' expenses.

State health officials reported today that initial water quality tests on the Souris River near Minot indicated no impact.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: No change from previous reports.
8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: No change from the previous reports.
9. OTHER: Appropriate state and local emergency operations plans have been implemented.

Situation Reports published by North Dakota Emergency Management are posted on the Division's Internet home page. The address is <http://www.state.nd.us/dem>.

Douglas C. Friez, State Director